

09/895,868

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application is made obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of the presented claims are now in allowable form.

I. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Applicants thank the Examiner for her comments regarding the allowability of claims 44-50, as well as regarding the allowability of claims 5-8, 10, 11, 20, 21 and 23, if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants submit that allowed claims 44-50, previously submitted as new claims, present claims 5-8, 11, 20, 21 and 23 in such a form. In addition, new claim 51 presents original claim 10 in independent form. Thus, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 44-51 are in allowable form.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 9, 12-19 AND 22 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 9, 12-19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the Tyan patent (United States Patent No. 6,473,517, issued on October 29, 2002, hereinafter Tyan) in view of the Saund patent (United States Patent No. 5,764,383, issued on June 9, 1998, hereinafter "Saund"). In response, the Applicants have cancelled claims 1-4, 9, 12-19 and 22 without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more continuation applications to pursue these cancelled claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-4, 9, 12-19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is moot.

III. CONCLUSION

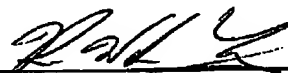
Thus, the Applicants submit that all of the presented claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all of the presented claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

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If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the maintenance of the final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Date:

10/27/05

Kin-Wah Tong, Attorney
Reg. No. 39,400
(732) 530-9404

Patterson & Sheridan, LLP
595 Shrewsbury Avenue
Shrewsbury, New Jersey 07702